

September 10, 2004

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 East Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

RE: MUR 5520

To Whom It May Concern:

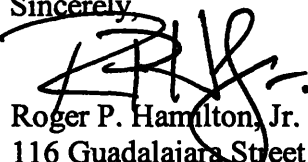
I am writing in regard to MUR 5520. In your letter dated September 1, 2004 you stated that if I received any additional information in this matter to forward it to the Office of the General Counsel.

I am doing so now.

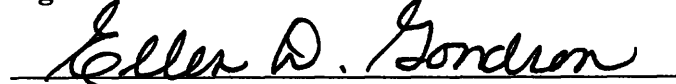
Please find enclosed a mailer paid for by the Louisiana Republican Party on behalf of Wilbert J. ("Billy") Tauzin III and his committee Tauzin for Congress. This type of activity was exactly what I feared would happen and why I issued the original complaint. Also find enclosed a news article where the Louisiana Republican Party admits to receiving funds from he Billy Tauzin Congressional Committee. Please inquire as to the source and date of funds used for this mailing as you investigate this matter.

I fear this election can be compromised if these potentially illegal activities **are allowed to continue**. My goal is to insure a fair, honest election in complete compliance with the letter, spirit, and intention of the law.

Sincerely,


Roger P. Hamilton, Jr.
116 Guadalajara Street
New Iberia, LA 70563
Phone: 337-364-6085

Signed and Sworn to Before Me



Date: September 15, 2004

Parish of: Iberia State of: Louisiana

Printed Name: Ellen D. Gondron

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FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

2004 SEP 17 11:17

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Everything New Orleans

The Times-Picayune

State GOP stands by endorsement Party backs Tauzin despite objections

Sunday, September 12, 2004

By Robert Travis Scott
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE – Leaders of the Louisiana Republican Party kept intact their controversial endorsement of Billy Tauzin III over other GOP candidates in the 3rd District congressional race despite challenges during a state party meeting in Baton Rouge on Saturday

The party leaders also defended themselves from a member's accusation that they may have violated federal election laws in the way they used more than \$30,000 from the campaign coffers of Tauzin's father, Rep Billy Tauzin Jr , R-Chackbay, who is retiring from the House seat

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Resolutions that would have altered the state party's endorsement were voted down in sub-committee meetings and then deferred on procedural grounds when introduced in the general meeting Saturday. The meeting adjourned abruptly before the full agenda had been covered, leaving critics without a chance to use other means to stop the endorsement.

State party Chairman Roger Villere Jr. said he was "frustrated" by Saturday's meeting and had hoped to have a full discussion on the decision to endorse Tauzin. Villere is one of the seven members of the state party's executive committee who voted on Aug. 13 to endorse Tauzin.

Although the party does not normally endorse a candidate when multiple Republicans are running for the same open seat, party leaders decided to move aggressively to take advantage of what they believe is a large advantage for Tauzin in the polls and bring in out-of-state support to bolster the effort, Villere said.

"We really believe deep down in our hearts that we made the right decision," Villere said "It was a very hard decision, but our job is to win elections "

'It's all about the money'

State Sen Craig Romero, R-New Iberia, who is running against the younger Tauzin, stood on the fringes of the state party's 223-member Central Committee meeting Saturday as his supporters failed to negate the Tauzin endorsement

"It's all about the money," said Romero, who claims state party leaders are swayed by the prospect of dipping deep into the elder Tauzin's unused campaign war chest of more than \$800,000

Federal law limits the amount of money congressional candidates can take from single sources, including donations from fathers to sons But the law allows unlimited donations to state political parties, so long as the donor is not directing the way the money is spent

Roger Hamilton Jr , a Central Committee member who supports Romero, filed a complaint with the Federal Elections Commission saying "I believe a violation of FEC law is about to occur " Hamilton, an assistant district attorney in Iberia Parish, said an illegal "coordination" may be occurring between the Republican Party and the Tauzins His accusation was partly based on a news item that political writer John Maginnis later retracted as being reported out of context

Still, the Federal Election Commission notified the state party Sept 1 that the matter had been placed under review, and state party Treasurer Charlie Buckels said it would cost the party at least \$20,000 in legal fees to defend itself

Buckels said Rep Tauzin has recently given the state party between \$30,000 and \$40,000, but with no strings attached He said the congressman has given the party money in the past and that the donation is nothing unusual

Washington support

Hamilton continued to stand by his accusation Saturday and questioned whether a recent state GOP brochure was evidence of improper coordination between the younger Tauzin and his supporters The state party recently mailed thousands of color brochures promoting the Tauzin for the seat The brochure says it was paid for by the Republican Party of Louisiana and authorized by Tauzin's campaign

Tauzin, a lobbyist for BellSouth, is running against two Republicans and several Democrats If none of the candidates gets more than 50 percent of the vote in the Nov 2 election, the two candidates with the most votes, no matter what party they are in, will face each other in a runoff

Republican state senators have united behind Romero and have called for the state party to rescind its endorsement of Tauzin But otherwise, a juggernaut of party support has been building for Tauzin

On Friday, Tauzin announced that top Republican leaders in the U S House, including House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill , and Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, have committed to campaign in Louisiana to help Tauzin's bid for the seat All of the state's Republican congressman have endorsed Tauzin

The Republican National Congressional Committee, which supports GOP candidates for Congress, has not made a decision about whom to finance in the 3rd District race, a spokesman said last week

Robert Travis Scott can be reached at rscott@timespicayune.com or (225) 342-4197

25044120208

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I'm running for
Congress to provide
strong, effective
leadership for
South Louisiana.

I will work day
and night to build
a vibrant economy
in our great state,
provide affordable
healthcare for our
citizens and defend
our freedoms here
and around
the world."

- Billy Tauzin III

★ TAUZIN #13 CONGRESS

Billy Tauzin III and his wife, Susan, live in Thibodaux.

W W W . T A U Z I N . O R G . C O M

The Republican Party of Louisiana

1000 Lakeside Blvd

Metairie, LA 70002

36-3*****ECRLOT**C 007

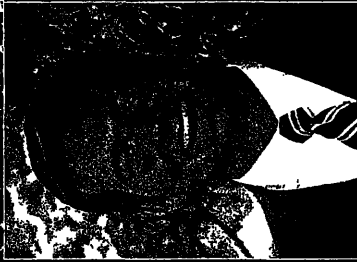
NEW IBERIA LA 70563-1328

★ TAUZIN CONGRESS

STRONG, EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP FOR SOUTH LOUISIANA



Better Jobs, Stronger Economy
Quality Education
More Affordable Healthcare
Winning the War on Terror
Pro-Family, Pro-Life
Saving Our Treasured Coastline



TAUZIN
CONGRESS

W W W . T A U Z I N . O R G
PAID FOR BY THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF LOUISIANA AND AUTHORIZED BY TAUZIN FOR CONGRESS

BETTER JOBS, STRONGER ECONOMY

Billy Tauzin will work tirelessly to make sure that all residents of South Louisiana have the opportunity to find good, high paying jobs. Billy will work to cut taxes on small businesses so they can invest and hire more workers. Billy also supports tax cuts for individuals so that people can keep more of their hard-earned money. Billy will also work to overturn burdensome regulations that hurt businesses and prevent job growth.

QUALITY EDUCATION

Every child deserves a world-class education. In order to provide children with a quality education, Billy knows schools need to be more accountable for students' progress. He supports merit pay for good teachers, world-class technology and discipline in the classroom. Billy wants local control over schools so that parents and teachers can have a stronger voice in the educational process.

MORE AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

The cost and availability of healthcare represents a major problem for many Americans. Billy will work to make health care affordable and accessible for all Americans. He supports the creation of health savings accounts and allowing for the reimbursement of FDA-approved drugs from Canada. Billy also supports tort reform to stop junk lawsuits that drive good doctors out of our state.

PRO-FAMILY, PRO-LIFE

Billy Tauzin is a pro-life conservative who will protect the unborn. Billy also believes marriage is between a man and a woman, and will fight to protect the sanctity of marriage.

WINNING THE WAR ON TERROR

Our freedom is precious and must be defended. Currently the men and women of our military are deployed across the world in the War on Terror. We owe them, not only our gratitude and prayers, but also all the tools necessary so they can complete their mission and can come home quickly and safely. In Congress, Billy will support our military by making sure it receives the funding needed to win the War on Terror. He will also work so that Louisiana receives the funds needed to adequately protect itself from terrorism.

SAVING OUR TREASURED COASTLINE

South Louisiana is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty. Our coastline and wetlands are precious natural resources that must be protected. Billy supports saving our coastline and implementing programs that will protect it from future erosion. Billy also will work hard in Congress to secure the funding needed to maintain and protect our wetlands.